Learn more about Brennan Delaney, fellow AWL Member



Brennan Delaney and his wife, Amy, on a mission trip to Peru.

Employer:
Langdon and Emison.

Tell us about your job:
Though the circumstances of each case vary, what my job really comes down to is representing individuals who have been catastrophically injured or who have lost a loved one because of someone else's actions. The variety of circumstances and theories of recovery we pursue for these clients, which range from complicated product defect cases to plain, old-fashioned negligence cases, make every case unique and keep my job interesting.

What is most rewarding about your job?
The two most rewarding parts of my job are: 1) helping walk my firm's clients through what is one of the most difficult situations they have been through in their lives; and 2) being an advocate for change – calling companies out that value profits over safety and influencing them to adopt safer policies to better protect their customers and the general public.

How do you maintain a work/life balance?
I try (sometimes unsuccessfully) to be home every night to eat dinner with my family and then help my wife put the kids to bed. I also try to spend a majority of my weekends with my family.



Brennan with his daughter, Claire, and son, Collin.

How long have you been a Member of the AWL?
Since January 2015.

Do you serve on any Boards? If so, tell us about them.
I am on the UMKC Law Alumni Association Board.

Best vacation you've been on?
I would have to say Costa Rica where my wife and I got married and we spent our honeymoon.

How do you define success?
To borrow from, paraphrase, and take out of context a favorite quote of mine from Theodore Roosevelt – Success is being in the arena, striving valiantly, knowing the great enthusiasms and the great devotions, and spending yourself in a worthy cause and knowing, at best, the triumph of high achievement and, at worst, failing while daring greatly so that your place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?
I have a distinct memory of talking to someone in the career services office at UMKC's law school about how to find my first law job and being told that I needed to reach out to every lawyer that I knew. At that point of my life, I knew exactly one lawyer, who at the time practiced in rural northwest Missouri where I am from. This combined with not having even a job offer when I sat to take or after I passed the bar exam made the doubts creep in about if I would ever have a successful law career. But since October 2008, I am proud to have been able to work alongside some of the best Judges and most talented attorneys that I could ever hope to be associated with.

Do you have a favorite quote?
"Son, there's nothing this world needs now more than good lawyers." - Bernie Delaney (my father).

Do you have a motto or personal mantra?
"Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6:8.

Who do you admire most and why?
My father because, as a small-town Sheriff, he always had the courage and the integrity to stand up for what he believed was right even if it was not in the best interest of his political career.

What career lessons have you learned thus far?
There are two questions you have to ask yourself as to every legal battle you are in and every legal argument you are going to make: 1) can I make this argument, fight about this, etc.: and 2) SHOULD I make this argument, fight about this, etc. If you only ask yourself the first question, it can lead to things not going very well. For an example, watch the first Jurassic Park movie.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I run half marathons (slowly) and raise other people's self-esteem by losing to them at racquetball.

If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?
Some combination of KC BBQ and wings from the Peanut.

What is one thing few people know about you?
My wife and I had exactly two days between when we found out we had been chosen to adopt our oldest son, Collin, who was a week old at the time, and when we brought him home.